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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/817,609	04/02/2004	Michael W. Pfeiffer	STL11386	2452
7590 03/31/2006			EXAMINER	
Seagate Technology LLC			NGUYEN, TAI V	
1280 Disc Drive			ART UNIT	
Shakopee, MN 55379			PAPER NUMBER	
			3729	

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/817,609	Applicant(s) PFEIFFER ET AL.	
	Examiner Tai Van Nguyen	Art Unit 3729	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8, 14, 19 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 9-12, 15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-7, 13, 17 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/2/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicants' election without traverse the invention of Group I, claims 1-7, 9-13 and 15-18 filed on 3/2/2006 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 8, 14, 19 and 20 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected the invention Group II, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 3/2/2006.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
4. The following title is suggested: AN APPARATUS COMPRISING A CARRIER ADAPTED TO PROTECT A HEAD STACK ASSEMBLY.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-2, 9-12 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scott et al (US 5,984,104)

As applied to claims 1 and 2, Price et al disclose an apparatus comprising a carrier adapted to protect a head stack assembly comprising a cantilevered flexure (94A, 94B, Fig. 6) which supports a transducer attached to sliders at a distal end thereof, the carrier comprising a carrier support (82) surface arranged to continuously, contactingly support the distal end of the flexure adjacent the transducer and to permit a subsequent engagement of a medial portion of the flexure by a merge tool which disengages the flexure from the carrier support surface (116A-116B) while merging the transducer with a recording surface.

As applied to claims 9 and 11, Schott et al disclose an apparatus comprising a merge tool adapted to install a head stack assembly adjacent a disc stack, the head stack assembly comprising a cantilevered flexure which supports a transducer at a distal end thereof, the merge tool comprising: a merge support surface arranged to contactingly engage (116A-116B) medial portion of the flexure (94A-94B) thereby disengaging (82) previous contacting engagement of the distal end (112C) of the flexure by a carrier and advancing the transducer to a final position adjacent a recording surface of the disc stack (84).

As applied to claim 10, Schott et al disclose wherein the merge tool comprises a main body portion (84) and a cantilevered arm (88) which extends (114A) from the main body portion, the cantilevered arm having a first portion configured to extend adjacent and substantially parallel to the head stack assembly (84) a separation distance less than a maximum width of the flexure and a second portion which supports the merge

support surface and extends substantially perpendicular to the head stack assembly (sequence Fig. 6 and 7).

As applied to claim 12, Schott et al disclose wherein the carrier comprises an elongated body having a medial portion that extends adjacent (114A) the medial portion of the flexure and a distal end (112C) which supports a carrier support surface (116A) which contactingly engages the distal end of the flexure.

As applied to claim 15, Scott et al disclose an apparatus, comprising: a carrier (82) adapted to protect a head stack assembly comprising a cantilevered flexure (94A, 94B) which supports a transducer at a distal end thereof, the carrier comprising a carrier support surface arranged to contactingly support the distal end of the flexure by continuous deflection of the distal end (112C) and a merge tool (84) adapted to merge the transducer with a recording surface comprising a merge support surface arranged to contactingly support ; medial portion of the flexure while the carrier support surface is disposed between the merge support surface and the transducer.

As applied to claim 16, Schott et al disclose wherein the carrier further comprises an elongated body having a medial portion (88) that extends adjacent the medial portion of the flexure (86) and a distal end which supports the carrier support (82) surface.

7. Claims 1, 9 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Price et al (US 5,826,325).

As applied to claim 1, Price et al disclose an apparatus comprising a carrier adapted to protect a head stack assembly comprising a cantilevered flexure (33, Fig. 1) which supports a transducer at a distal end thereof, the carrier (41) comprising a carrier

support surface arranged to continuously, contactingly support the distal end of the flexure adjacent the transducer and to permit a subsequent engagement of a medial portion of the flexure by a merge tool (13) which disengages the flexure from the carrier support surface while merging the transducer with a recording surface.

As applied to claim 9, Price et al disclose an apparatus comprising a merge tool adapted to install a head stack assembly (31) adjacent a disc stack, the head stack assembly comprising a cantilevered flexure (33) which supports a transducer at a distal end thereof, the merge tool (13) comprising a merge support surface arranged to contactingly engage a medial portion of the flexure thereby disengaging previous contacting engagement of the distal end of the flexure by a carrier and advancing the transducer to a final position adjacent a recording surface of the disc stack.

As applied to claim 15, Price et al disclose an apparatus, comprising: a carrier adapted to protect a head stack assembly (41) comprising a cantilevered flexure (33) which supports a transducer at a distal end thereof, the carrier comprising a carrier support surface arranged to contactingly support the distal end of the flexure by continuous deflection of the distal end; and a merge tool (13) adapted to merge the transducer with a recording surface comprising a merge support surface arranged to contactingly support a medial portion of the flexure while the carrier support surface is disposed between the merge support surface and the transducer.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 3-7, 13 and 17-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tai Van Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4567. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 A.M - 4:30 P.M).

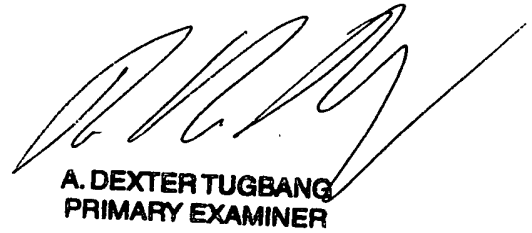
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/817,609
Art Unit: 3729

Page 7

TN.
March 23, 2006



A. DEXTER TUGBANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER